



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Conservation Commission Minutes 05/17/2012

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
May 17, 2012

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Chris Naylor, Eileen Coleman, Michele Durocher, Charles Tirone, Catherine Garnett and Curt Connors of the Commission. Also present were Peter Schweich and Steve Makowka.

7:45 pm – Commission Business

Tirone/Coleman motioned to approve the **4/26 minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Connors/Tirone motioned to approve the **5/3 minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Town Meeting passed the warrant article to fund the **Waterbodies** account for \$50K.

Town Meeting did not pass the warrant article related to the rezoning of **Cookes Hollow**. Mr. Makowka is interested in helping to coordinate the aftermath of that vote and help find a solution. Mr. White thought that the Mill Brook Linear Park Group would be a good starting point or the Open Space Committee.

The Conservation Commission cleaned up **Meadowbrook Park** on 5/5. There was a lot of Japanese Knotweed, garlic mustard and multiflora rose, hindering access to some areas for cleanup. An additional fall cleanup might be organized.

The board reviewed the information obtained on a site walk of the potential encroachment on conservation land on **Hemlock Rd.** The board will inquire of Town Counsel as to the next action to take.

Ms. Durocher reported on the progress of the revision to the **Walking Book**. The subcommittee met with Adam Kurowski, to coordinate the mapping template, optimize the font and will meet again in mid June.

Mr. White reported on the latest planting at the **Reservoir Habitat garden**, held April 29 and 30. They installed \$426.09 worth of plants. Mr. White reported that there is \$1900 left in the Stewardship funds for this project and asked for approval to release the funds to M. Gougault. Coleman/Garnett motioned to approve release of \$426.09 to M. Gougault; motion passed unanimously.

Town Day will be on September 15 this year. Ms. Beckwith will register the Conservation Commission.

There is a report of possible unpermitted dock near to **30 Addison St** on Spy Pond. Ms. Beckwith did not locate any WPA or Ch. 91 in the Conservation files. The next step is to contact the owners to ask for any proof of permits.

Mr. Schweich, a Spy Pond abutter, inquired as to the permit status of the **Arlington Belmont boat club's buoy**. The board will inquire. Ms. Garnett thought it might be that Spy Pond is under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth.

Ms. Garnett reported on her site walk to **63 Beverly Rd**. They will propose planting evergreens and shadbush on both sides, two perennial planting beds at the water's edge and a couple of native trees in the front yard. The arborist will come to the 6/7 meeting.

Mr. White asked if they were proposing to utilize a native arborvitae. Ms. Beckwith asked if the proposed plants would be shade tolerant. Ms. Garnett said that the shadbush is shade tolerant, as it is an understory plant. The board

directed Ms. Beckwith to ask for the landscaping plan to be submitted ahead of the next meeting for review.

Mr. Schweich asked why his property, **252 Pleasant St**, was listed on the agenda, but he left the room before this item was discussed. Ms. Beckwith reviewed that past communications with Mr. Schweich; 1) his first question to the office was in regards to a decayed large tree between his property and his neighbors, 2) then he asked about what he needed to do in regards to repairing a deteriorating retaining wall near to the shoreline of Spy Pond on his property, 3) lastly he asked if he needed a review from us of work on his driveway. Ms. Beckwith looked at the Town's GIS map and determined that the 100 Buffer Zone should fall somewhere in the middle of the house on his lot. This would make #1 and #2 above within the jurisdiction of the WPA and not #3. Mr. Stevens asked Ms. Beckwith to draft a letter to that effect to Mr. Schweich.

Ms. Beckwith reported on an inquiry in regards to **the boat size limit** that is allowed in the recently enacted Elizabeth Island Conservation Restriction. She will distribute the CR and the inquiry to the board. Mr. Stevens recused himself from discussion of this item and left the room during the discussion.

Ms. Garnett asked for input on what permit might be required if the AMC did a **trail** maintenance project in Menotomy Rocks Park next to the ravine. The area is probably within 100 feet of the wetland in that corner. The work may be maintenance. She will compose a project description and a materials list. They may apply to the Land Stewardship fund for some of the expenses.

Ms. Durocher reported that the **Off-leash Dog Park** at Thorndike will open on Monday.

Ms. Garnett reported that she inspected the **Kelwyn Manor park phragmites** removal work and it was substantial but a lot of it is growing back.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator